Final orders should be passed within six months on the representations made at the Assembly and the decisions should be duly published. Before the meeting of the next session, a statement should be published showing the subjects which were not disposed of, with reasons for the delay.

Members should be given the right to interpellate Government and to move and discuss resolutions on matters of general public interest.

191. Constitutional reforms.

MR. K. GEORGE JOSEPH (*Minachil taluk, Group I*) said that it was almost certain that the system of Government in British India would undergo a change in one or two years. Responsible Government would be introduced in the provinces by an Act of Parliament. Travancore would then have to come into line with the British Indian provinces.

The member then suggested that the following constitutional changes might be introduced with advantage to the people and Government. The electorate should be so widened as to include the entire adult population. The introduction of universal franchise would awaken the dormant political consciousness of the masses. Taxation and legislation should rest solely with the representatives of the people. Members of the Government should be chosen by the Legislature and should vacate office on a vote of no-confidence.

192 Responsible Government.

MR. T. K. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Trivandrum taluk, Group I*) said that the administration of Travancore compared very favourably with that of any other Indian State. In Travancore, civic rights were respected and the rule of law was an accomplished fact. But the representatives of the people were seldom able to shape the policy of Government.

Some Indian Rulers evinced an inclination to prefer foreigners to their own subjects to fill the higher appointments. Persons who had no stake in the country were not likely to take the people along with them. In Travancore, many a foreign Dewan had genuine love towards the State and its people. But the vast majority of them were not so. A son of the soil with ordinary ability would be able to conduct the administration with success.

The Legislative Council criticised Government. But criticism could be healthy and constructive only when the privilege was purified by responsibility. Responsible Government, or the subordination of the executive to the legislature, was the country's goal. The goal should be reached speedily.

An Executive Council was long overdue. But there was no use of an Executive Council, unless the members thereof were selected from among the non-officials also. If each member of the Council would

manage the affairs of his own department, in a manner which would be approved of by the legislature, the Dewan would be able to think out large schemes for the benefit of the people.

The popular institutions of the State were not efficient. That was not because the people were not fit to exercise power, but because Government would not let them have it in any appreciable measure. For instance, when the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was established, it was invested with some powers, but in the course of a few years its powers were crippled. Subjects which it was allowed to discuss in its infancy were later on tabooed. The question of reforming the institution should be taken up and solved in a manner acceptable to the people. The Assembly should be co-ordinated with the Council and should have a voice in legislation and finance.

In conclusion, the member expressed the hope that the peoples' aspirations would be appreciated and their demands granted as a genuine Travancorean was at the helm of administration.

193. Responsible Government in Travancore.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that the head of the administration was not responsible to the people of the country. Further, the administration often fell into the hands of foreign Dewans who did not care for the best interests of the country. In consequence, the Government stood, for decades together, with no policy and no plan for ordering the affairs of the State. In face of the challenging problem of unemployment among the educated classes and in matters like the industrial development of the country and the reform of the Sir Mulam Popular Assembly, the Government stood almost helpless, waiting for something to happen. The Inter-portal Trade Convention, the Periyar lease, the assignment of the Kanan Devan Hills and the participation in the Cochin Harbour Scheme were typical examples of how the Government moved. It was high time therefore that the people's representatives were associated directly with the task of administration. Further, the burden of administration had grown so enormously in recent years that it could not be borne by one man.

The member referred to some aspects of administration which, in his opinion, were worthy of mention. Public service was not inspired by patriotism. The very low pay of departmental subordinates fostered corruption. Primary education was not made compulsory. The school curriculum did not contain provision for agricultural and technical education. Nothing was done to check the fall in exports and the increase in imports.

The member then suggested that experts should be got down for the manufacture of rubber tyres and tubes, candles, glassware, sugar-soap, lamps, etc. in the State. A Commercial Agent should be appointed in London. Action should be taken on the reports of the Unemployment Committee and the University Committee. The Village Panchayat